

CLARK COUNTY ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

**Sunset Park Administration Building
2601 E. Sunset Road, Administration Conference Room
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120
April 10, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: BIGGERSTAFF, JAN (JB)
CHEVALIER, YVETTE (YC)
SANJAY, VERMA (VS)
SONDEJ, KEN (KJ)
POOLER, TOM (TP)
YOUNG, BILLIE (BY)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded.

3. Presentation to Committee Members

Dave March(DM) - committee members toured shelter. All agencies pleased thus far. Work with shelter continually to make improvements.

4. Approval of January 29, 2007 Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded.

5. Proposed change to Title 10.24.030 to regulate unsterilized dogs and cats impounded at the animal shelter

KS – poorer community will not be reclaiming animals with those numbers. Will contribute to euthanasia numbers. BY what would exemption from sterilization be? DM – if animal presents in a condition due to advanced age or medical condition, veterinarian can provide letter of exemption. We have not had people taking advantage of that. It is yearly exemption. YC thinks fees are reasonable. Helpful when part can be used for microchip and sterilization. Sounds like County helping process, giving back to consumer. DM at 1st impound given \$35 sterile and \$15 microchip voucher. We annually give away \$50,000 in sterilization to the public.

MIKE CONNELL (MC)– looks, sounds good should be workable. Are people informed after 1st impound that money will be upgraded? It would be a deterrent. DM we can work with shelter to add onto paperwork they receive explaining vouchers. MYRA GLASSMAN (MG) supports comment as to deterrent value. If people are so irresponsible we should discourage them from having pets. KS agrees with proposal to inform citizen as a deterrent in writing.

SHARON HALPERT (SH)– nice to have one page recommendation of things a person can do to

confine their pet along with explanation of subsequent penalties. TP – can you provide something along the line? SH examine enclosure, such as holes in backyard. It sounds obvious. A neighbor's dog was always getting out. We had to go to their house to show them how dog was getting out.

6. Proposed change to Title 10.30.115 to regulate sales of unsterilized dogs and cats by Retailers and Pet Fanciers

JB – when puppies/kittens are sold do they need to be sterilized beforehand? DM - if someone has a current fancier permit they can obtain without first having it sterilized. Ultimately people purchasing these pets are contributing to problems we have. We are requiring the permit prior to sale or for the animals to be sterilized with cost passed onto purchaser. If you live in CC you need to contact AC for the permit. After reaching a year you need to show the animal to maintain unsterilized pet. YC – How will this be enforced? DM - Provisions to maintain records in Title 10.30 would be added. When we come across or do inspections of pet stores, if no records, we would prosecute for having sold intact animals. Animals on floor for sale would have to be documented. Pet shops would be able to be caught. People working with us to identify backyard breeders. They will also need to obtain permit, keep records. We can prosecute if they don't have. Have to have proof of showing each unsterilized animal or be sterilized. Business does not need permit but breeder does. They would need to inquire as to whether purchaser buying pet has a permit. KS – Pet stores are not named directly in this ordinance. They are putting the unwanted animals on the streets. Responsible breeders have the fanciers. 98 to 99 percent of their dogs are sold out of state. DM this applies to pet stores. Any business or corporation who is selling a pet falls under this. 10.30 applies specifically to pet stores and many of these provisions apply to all the breeders. Fanciers already comply. We are very aggressive with pet stores and have been and will continue to be so. Pet stores are required to make a record of sale. Because of age of puppies, rabies vaccination will not be given. Animals cannot be shown until they are a year. We would have to put off inspection until they qualify for rabies shot and showing. Looking at closing the loop so they can't get out of stores without the permit or being sterilized. Won't get you first time but second time when we check to see if animal was shown. YC if you are a purchaser of a first time puppy for show, you have to have a permit. DM you would need to contact AC to obtain permit, then purchase the pet. JB – how many inspectors are available. DM - 13 plus a senior. KS there has been a lot of study regarding large breed dogs. Do not mature until they are 5. Sterilizing at 3 months affects growth and immune system of dogs. Studies not totally conclusive. It affects the animal's lifespan as well. VS all puppies sold at average age of 8 weeks. You are trying to put burden on pet stores that means every puppy they sell has to be spayed or neutered at 6 weeks. Can put animal at risk. YC looks like enforcement nightmare. Never heard of sterilizing that young. DM early sterilization is performed at the shelter. We have been doing 6 week sterilization since early 90's to discourage number of animals bred in a community. Trying to close loopholes. KS – if study comes out, I will bring to you. BY don't like to see more government oversight than necessary. Responsible breeders are concerned about animals, don't breed any more than they have a place for puppies to go and are careful about how often, how many they put out and so on. Someone walking into a pet store is not likely buying a high quality dog to promote breeding so someone in business of turning animals over has responsibility to ensure they are doing right by animals and help in lowering amount of animals breeding. KS pet store animals not registered with clubs. Get American pet registry, name and number was the same for parents, grandparents back 8 generations. YC if distinguished between puppies AKC registered or other accredited registries I would be comfortable with supporting but knowing don't develop until 2 difficult to enforce. VS some records don't reflect what we see in puppy. Can buy a pure bred Jack Russell and in 3 months turn into a Cocker Spaniel. Top registries don't get from pet store. Fanciers want to maintain quality of breed. Pet stores will have to be handled in a certain way. These people are paying \$2,000 or \$3,000 for puppies that are not really good. YC having puppies returned to take care of is more difficult than having done before they leave pet store. Pet store biggest abuser and

they should be held accountable. Consumer unaware of what they are buying. DM – the first significant reduction in euthanasia occurred when we adopted early sterilizations. The next began when we gave away funds every year for sterilizations. Unaware of anyone saying early sterilization caused difficulties for pet later. Looking for way to reduce unwanted pets.

MIKE CONNELL (MC) am delegate to American kennel club. Is present law going to say? DM We enacted code change requiring anyone with unsterilized pet to obtain pet fancier permit. (MC) Unconstitutional. Sellers, yes I agree. DM already on the books. If you have an unsterilized pet you must have permit. We are moving it up. When you buy it you must have it.

KAREN LAYNE – LVVHS support this ordinance change. We do early spay/neuter of cats and dogs. All of our kittens s/n at 8 weeks and puppies at 3 or 4 months. S/n before adoption. Never had a problem. We are a non profit and we do it. Seems a business can do that. We provide low cost s/n and have very few vets who work with us. Never asked questions before. Now, we are further and further behind since Lied is no longer doing owned animals s/n. Referring everyone to HCW or us. We are 2 months out on horizon. We will do cats for anybody. Put down over 24,000 in the valley last year. We are committed to dealing with overpopulation problem. Only about 6 percent of cats came out; dogs are different. About 50 percent who go in come out of shelter. Started asking people where did you get animal. Most got from breeders and pet stores. Spent all this money and coming to us for low cost s/n. Trying to provide service to community. Being told by pet store and breeder to contact us. Referring to middle cost vets who will s/n. Irritating, trying to provide service to people who can't afford and we have people spending \$500 or \$600. One guy spent \$3000 on a Corgi and came to us.

CLARISSA ENGSTROM (CE), happiest vet in LV. Worked at Desert Inn and with Dr. Henderson and Emergency AH. Need to impress health reasons for spay/neuter. 75 percent of HBC are males. Mastiff 6 months to a year is developed. If you neuter early they grow taller. Doesn't affect health. We have to make it sexy to s/n animal. Please get me in touch with Oscar, martini in one held, pit bull in another holding testicals with show girl saying "cut them off." Make it sexy. KS study about a year or 2 old. CE worked at vet hospital, man brought in with shot record that said Santiago Chili. Dog had a parasite. Contacted APHIS and AC public health issue

DR. DAVID HENDERSON– study not aware of any going on like that. Would like to know what university, how you have information before it is published. AVMA has come out endorsing early s/n. Tons of research. Done for 20 years no problem. Has no problem with placing burden on pet stores. Who says you have to sell at 8 weeks. Hold to 3 months. Know of no responsible breeder that will show and breed from pet store. We are talking about the intergalactic pet registry, not good quality animals. Applaud you for putting up there.

JUDY ERICKSON, HCW targets low income mobile home parks. We did 7000 s/n last year. Hit people who can't afford who don't have transport or phone. Behind ordinance. Had same instances as LVVH. They don't give sob story. Opening is what do you charge. They are shopping. We are not trying to help them. Short on vets working with non profits. Had an incident where we targeted low income areas and she took a \$2400 Chihuahua to VCA. Not who we are trying to help. Vets losing money. Support ordinance

MG great ordinance. Enforcing at pet store easier than after dog leaves store. Have not heard about adverse affect from early sterilization. Been doing it here long time. Lot of ads in local papers from breeders outside of CC. We can't enforce in those counties. Many are advertising they will deliver pet to LV and if so they are doing business here. How can we go after them? DM interstate commerce, feds might be interested, Dept of Agriculture. Doing business in CC we would need to research with Business License. (MG) Delighted to see how many people are here

and to have 2 vets in audience.

MC for spay/neuter bill. I have Akitas. If I have a litter with pet quality, it is s/n. Show quality are intact. Don't agree with making purchaser get another license when they buy show dog. We sell under contract. Don't breed under 2 years of age. If fails any one of screenings, they are s/n. If pass, they are bred, not back to back. Good breeders know breed. Contract states show dog, guarantee for life. Take in at 6 and have cataracts, I replace free of charge. YC When someone shows a dog, you don't know if performance worthy until they are older. DM permit allows you to have up to 6 intact animals over 1 year of age and as many puppies on the deck under a year. You can have permit but until that animal becomes 1 year, it isn't covered by the permit. Are trying to close door. If they are breeding, they have the number, put number in ad. YC if I am brand new and want to show, never done, going to obedience and do training, buy puppy did not have fancier and now I want one can I apply for that puppy before a year old. DM because animal hasn't come into season you still need permit. We would give permit with no problems because it is not of an age where you have to show. When we come back 2nd year, dog will have to be shown and have rabies.

JUDITH RUIZ – far removed from what we are discussing. A study several years ago did percentage of breeders compared to population. Breeders are not a large representation. We are talking about 25,000 to 30,000 animals. Why are we spending so much time on the few pure bred animals? They are not descended from royalty. Most of the dogs are mutts. If they want a certain dog, go to breeder. You want to spend \$22,000 on dog, up to them. Here to discuss saving the lives of 30,000 animals. BY would like to know if you support. JUDITH I support.

GINA GREISON (GG) supports ordinance. If we do in CC, have we talked to any other officials in city? Can we get this in Henderson, NLV, CLV? DM – Cannot answer for NLV, CLV or Henderson. We lead the way. We still have some of the most aggressive laws on the books. Pet shop is tough and we enforce. People need to go to city councils and lobby. Vicious came from SNRPC so all partners came in at the beginning. Can be brought up at meetings with all officials. We are in favor of everyone adopting our wonderful programs. (GG) Don't see any ordinances posted in vet's offices. You are waiting and looking for something to read. Some sort of info. DM – Harold has a poster he has just put together to address sterilization issue. We are working with him to hand out on the spot vouchers. Don't know if some vets would be uncomfortable.

JOE BOTEILHO - we have been progressive in CC whether pet shop or early sterile. Ordinance puts onus on breeders and pet shop owners to get them sterilized at 6 weeks before they sell. Joins breeder and pet shop to be closer with vet. Before they sell any animal has to be examined by vet and continually examined while up for sale. 30 days has to have at least 2 exams. Anyone wanting a fertile animal, we put in process that they can have animal. Like ferrets, are sterilized before you get from pet shop. Next year 58,000 into the shelter and after that 67,000 and at least half will be killed. We are working with other jurisdictions to come up to this level with same code. This could stem the tide. As you know we need to invite all breeders, all pet shop owners to see how it works with your business. We hoped they would come tonight as part of discussion but more input needs to be taken.

JUDITH RUIZ has graphic photo of animal being euthanized. Nobody should have to do this. TP – should have seen what I saw if that isn't enough to make you go out and s/n every dog nothing will.

HAROLD VOSKO – on behalf of HCW we support ordinance. Common denominator is AC being proactive to reduce euthanasia.

SHARON HALPERT supports ordinance.

7. **Proposed change to Title 10.32.050 regarding transporting animals**

JB should we define cruel or inhumane. BY – last conversation with brand inspector; rules and regulations on transporting when dealing with wild horses, only allowed so many, broken down by gender, only transported for certain length of time, inspected before they leave, permits for how long, how many. DM they do not include domestic animals. Looking at a slight reworking of existing code as suggested by Bruce Halstead to require additional restraint for animals inside vehicles as well as in open bed of pickup truck. Similar to children, need to be restrained, except can't restrain by neck. KS – Are harnesses available at stores of a quality that would prevent animal from getting injured. MG – ASPCA has looked at available harnesses and the branded harnesses have been approved. They need to be applied appropriately just like kiddy seats. Spoke with people at AAA trying to work with them to sell AAA animal harnesses for the car. In early negotiations. KS -You can go into pet store and buy collars of various qualities. Is that less expensive one going to prevent injury? MG – harnesses available for under \$10 that is good. Think it is safe rider. From \$8 to \$14 depending on size. DM we are at the beginning of this, we don't have a frame of reference. If AAA comes out with a rating, we can add. We don't have a group defining the Snell rating so you can say this is the rating you must meet. Something is better than nothing. Restraining them is probably better than being ejected. TP is this a fast or slow moving thing? MG – slow not sure I hit on right person to make it happen yet. Am working on it. Have no idea when I will have something concrete.

BRUCE HALSTEAD – CA made it a state law. Main idea is getting away from hanging dog's neck. PA went with idea. Some dogs like to hang out window. Make sure properly secured. Let's have some options. On TV last night, talked about in back of truck, went further. To keep animal out of harms way and from causing harm. Some people might be worried about harness causing more damage. Would rather take care of dislocated shoulder than to see C1,2, 3 snapped. Let's cut down on loss of life and animal. Had people come by with harnesses on dogs, especially in RVs, big dogs. Could prevent accidents. In PA windows must be up. YC – well written. Maybe car manufacturer come up with.

MG in favor of harnesses. Other devices in SUVs with large dogs. Special dividers. Problem with legislating. Education is one thing. Volunteer to teach AARP safe driver class and add some things to course. Discuss if traveling with pets and/or children how to keep themselves, pets and children safe. Concerned about animals in front, asleep on driver's lap. Don't want a nanny state. One thing to legislate they not be allowed in bed of pickup. Legislating interior restraining devices is going too far. KS – too much legislation stinks. Metro and everyone else has to be involved. MG spoke with Metro about dogs in back of pickup trucks unrestrained, violation of state law. Metro says we don't have time to worry about animals. More laws on books will not be enforced or selectively enforced when people are in the mood. KS has to be mandatory, enforced by Metro not just AC.

VS thinks it is a good idea. If we can put in word harness and have time to do more research on types of harness. Very frustrating to see pickups and open bed and dogs with long chain, flinching hope dog doesn't jump off. DM – provisions within code says cannot be fastened by the neck, would by default be a harness or an enclosure within the vehicle. Intent is to keep open to other possibilities besides harness so people can keep in kennel and still be in compliance. TP as long as windows rolled up, no problem. Nothing about being restrained, will take another look at for provisions with specific restraint within vehicle. BY supports what MG said. Animals in back of pick up trucks should not be there but having dog contained inside, now you have to have a harness or something. Carrying too far where we actually need to spend time and energy on animals running loose. Taking things a little too far at this time don't like to see so much

oversight. JB –if we say has to be restrained inside, a little too much. BRUCE if animal is properly restrained inside and there is an accident, less chance of another accident. Keep animal under control inside car and protect animal.

8. Information-sharing by Committee Members

BY members who toured AFL YC was extremely impressed how beautiful facility is. Not visited for 18 years. It was impressive, state of the art facility. KS even when toured Lied 2 or 3 years ago, it has improved greatly since then. Lied is on right track now. Only complaint was openness of areas for airborne virus to wipe out population. Improvements were great. JB appreciated opportunity to tour Lied, impressed with change. Hopefully will straighten out and continue. BY Saw tremendous efforts made and improvements, broke my heart, couldn't sleep for nights. Is there anything our Committee can do to help continue efforts? DM – you could volunteer but I think important to bear in mind for Committee to have a distance so you don't have a relationship. As it is right now TP would have to abstain. Can make donations and talk about what their needs are or connect other people to the shelter. Long-term contract at this time don't see anything coming. JB what about politics? Is there someway we can assist in being proactive. Changes (DM) that have been made even in administrative staff is opening up avenues of communication and cooperation. Not running into bureaucratic limits. TP knows what we need. He understands. No roadblocks or significant problems at this time. TP has more issues getting supplies he needs but we are getting tons of cooperation. BY – is Lied able to apply for discount vouchers. Since (DM) they are not doing owned animals, no. These funds can only be made available to 501c3 w/o existing relationship with County. Concern was they would take all money and other orgs would not have availability to counter that. There are grants they could apply for. KS – animals picked up in intake. How many are owner turn in, how many are feral or domestic. Intact or spayed/neutered, dog or cat? If we can get this info, we might know why we are putting down so many a year. DM – we are on Chameleon software. We can view statistical data. Info is there. Not sure on feral intake how we could pull that. Most items are searchable. If you are looking for specific report for next meeting, I need time frame. KS – 81 percent euthanasia. If broken down between feral and domestic we can see what problem is.

DM Request for hearing for vicious animal so hope to arrange next meeting early May.

9. Comments by the General Public

KAREN LAYNE – Wag A Tail Walk A Thon - bring dog, disaster preparedness in terms of animal from Health District and CCAC. Next year, we will talk about harness. It is a good educational process. Animal overpopulation is a huge issue. Not all feral cats.

JUDY ERICKSON – flyer Harold working on was put together with AC who added some things and approved. Said if you want free spay/neuter with vaccinations, if you want permit, call AC. You have 2 choices. We selected some of our low-income areas, offering shots; s/n. Thought I would be inundated with calls. Was not. Are not dealing with responsible people. Will call when dog has parvo or kitten sick or they need food or when put in cage in front of road. Not calling for free s/n or calling AC to abide the law. Appreciate AC working with us to solve problem. We will need AC presence out there. Once we have a few people out there seeing enforcement, rest will fall in line.

GINA GRIESON budget meeting tomorrow agenda out there. Need more enforcement if we can put that out and let everyone know.

10. Set date, time and agenda of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 1, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Paradise Community Center.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.